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(See inside cover)

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Attachment to Z-15188/82

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NPIC/IEG (3/82)

25 MARCH 1982

BMD AIRBORNE ARMORED PERSONNEL CARRIER VARIANTS
KABUL INTERNATIONAL AIRFIELD AFGHANISTAN

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1. (S/D) SIGNIFICANCE: BMD M-1981/2 AIRBORNE ARMORED PERSONNEL CARRIERS (APC) HAVE BEEN IDENTIFIED FOR THE FIRST TIME WITH SOVIET AIRBORNE FORCES IN AFGHANISTAN AT KABUL INTERNATIONAL AIRFIELD AND BAGRAM AIRFIELD

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2. (S/D) REMARKS: EIGHTEEN BMD M-1981/2 AIRBORNE APC WERE NEWLY IDENTIFIED AT KABUL INTERNATIONAL AIRFIELD IMAGERY. THE BMD M-1981/2 WERE PARKED IN THE AIRBORNE ARTILLERY REGIMENTAL PARKING AREA IN THREE GROUPS OF SIX. IN ADDITION, TWO OF THE GROUPS EACH CONTAINED TWO BMD M-1979 PROBABLE COMMAND VARIANTS AND THE THIRD GROUP CONTAINED FIVE BMD M-1979 PROBABLE COMMAND VARIANTS. THE EQUIPMENT WAS SURROUNDED BY A SMALL BERM AND A VISUAL SCREEN (NOT ANNOTATED ON GRAPHIC). THIS EQUIPMENT BEGAN ARRIVING IN EARLY DECEMBER 1981 WHEN IT WAS BELIEVED TO BE PART OF A POSSIBLE SPECIAL-PURPOSE FORCES UNIT. SIX BMD M-1981/2 AND ONE BMD M-1979 PROBABLE COMMAND VARIANT WERE ALSO IDENTIFIED AT BAGRAM AIRFIELD (NOT ON GRAPHIC). THE VEHICLES, PRESENT SINCE EARLY JANUARY, WERE ALSO SURROUNDED BY A VISUAL SCREEN. THE ONLY OTHER UNIT KNOWN TO HAVE THE BMD M-1981/2 APC IS THE AIR ASSAULT BRIGADE AT VLADIMAR VOLYNSKIY HQ GMRD/AB AL 1/TA 1 IN THE SOVIET CARPATHIAN MILITARY DISTRICT.

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(S/D) ANALYST'S COMMENTS: THE NUMBER AND GROUPINGS OF BMD M-1981/2 IN THE AIRBORNE ARTILLERY REGIMENTAL EQUIPMENT PARK AT KABUL INTERNATIONAL AIRFIELD SUGGEST THAT THE VEHICLE MAY HAVE AN ARTILLERY ROLE IN AFGHANISTAN. IT IS MORE LIKELY, HOWEVER, THAT THE BMD M-1981/2 IS IN AFGHANISTAN FOR TESTING AND EVALUATION AS AN ADVANCED AIRBORNE APC.

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3. (S) , COORDINATES 34-34-00N 069-12-50E

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